

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3176. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine ways of restoring the natural wetlands conditions in the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4435. An act to clarify certain boundaries on the map relating to Unit NC01 of the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar.

H.R. 4576. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today June 8, 2000, he had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 777. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an electronic filing and retrieval system to enable farmers and other persons to file paperwork electronically with selected agencies of the Department of Agriculture and to access public information regarding the programs administered by these agencies.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-9157. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency For International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Development Assistance and Child Survival/Diseases Program allocation for fiscal year 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9158. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9159. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of determinations on Export-Import Bank financing in support of the sale of helicopters to Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9160. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9162. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 1999 report entitled "Support for European Democracy"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9163. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Model Comprehensive Program for the Treatment of Substance Abuse Metropolitan Area Treatment Enhancement System for fiscal years 1994 through 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9164. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Higher Education Technical Amendments Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9165. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "FDA Review Fee Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9166. A communication from the Acting Commissioner for Education Statistics, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Condition of Education"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9167. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to combating terrorism; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9168. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Social Security Military Wage Credits Act"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9169. A communication from the , transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the response to recommendations concerning improvements to the DOD Joint Manpower Process; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9170. A communication from the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting jointly, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Oil Shale Reserve Transfer Act"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9171. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Tricare access to health care; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9172. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Plan for Improved Demilitarization of Excess and Surplus Defense Property"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9173. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9174. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uranium Industry Annual 1999"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9175. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1999 entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sales: Evaluation of Bidding Results"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9176. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9177. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Hardrock Mining Production Payments Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9178. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget and the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, transmitting jointly, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Recreational Fee Authority Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2406: A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for entry into the United States of certain religious workers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mrs. STEVENS):

S. 2693. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a more equitable Federal medical assistance percentage for Alaska; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2694. A bill to amend section 313 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to make certain products eligible for drawback and to simplify and clarify certain drawback provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 2695. A bill to convert a temporary Federal judgeship in the eastern district of Missouri to a permanent judgeship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ROBB):

S. 2696. A bill to prevent evasion of United States excise taxes on cigarettes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. 2697. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Commodity Exchange Act to promote legal certainty, enhance competition, and reduce systemic risk in markets for futures and over-the-counter derivatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BRYAN,

Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to ensure that all Americans gain timely and equitable access to the Internet over current and future generations of broadband capability; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2699. A bill to strengthen the authority of the Federal Government to protect individuals from certain acts and practices in the sale and purchase of social security numbers and social security account numbers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. L. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2700. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2701. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a tax credit for donations of computers to senior centers, to require a pilot program to enhance the availability of Internet access for older Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2702. A bill to require reports on the progress of the Federal Government in implementing Presidential Decision Directive No. 63 (PDD-63); to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2703. A bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERREY (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BROWNBAC, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2704. A bill to provide additional authority to the Army Corps of Engineers to protect, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat on the Missouri River and to improve the environmental quality and public use and appreciation of the Missouri River; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2705. A bill to provide for the training of individuals, during a Presidential transition, who the President intends to appoint to certain key positions, to provide for a study and report on improving the financial disclosure process for certain Presidential nominees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2706. A bill to amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to establish a pro-

gram to provide dairy farmers a price safety net for small- and medium-sized dairy producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2707. A bill to help ensure general aviation aircraft access to Federal land and the airspace over that land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2708. A bill to establish a Patients Before Paperwork Medicare Red Tape Reduction Commission to study the proliferation of paperwork under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. KERREY):

S. 2709. To establish a Beef Industry Compensation Trust Fund with the duties imposed on products of countries that fail to comply with certain WTO dispute resolution decisions; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DODD, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act; to the Committee on Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2693. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a more equitable Federal medical assistance percentage for Alaska; to the Committee on Finance.

THE ALASKA MEDICAID EQUITY ACT OF 2000

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for more than 30 years, the State of Alaska was subjected to an economic inequity in the administration of the national Medicaid program.

With a poverty level 25 percent above the national average, and over one-sixth of the state's population Medicaid-eligible, Alaska delivers health care to many needy children, pregnant women, disabled and elderly poor Americans. These people deserve quality medical care, and Alaska delivers.

But three years ago, Congress recognized that the federal government was not paying its fair share of Alaska's Medicaid program. The one-size-fits-all formula that is used to calculate the federal Medicaid match is based upon the per capita income of individual states as it relates to the national per capita income. Simply put, states with higher per capita income pay a higher percentage of Medicaid costs. This formula works well for states that are near national norms for most economic indicators. But it certainly doesn't work in the State of Alaska, where most economic measurements are atypical compared with national averages.

The reason is fairly simple. It just costs more to live and do business in

Alaska. Per capita income isn't a fair indicator unless it takes into account the cost of delivering care in that area. Somehow, however, the Medicaid formula forgot this.

In 1997, when Congress recognized this issue, it adopted legislation that reflected the state's higher costs and increased the federal Medicaid match. Instead of receiving a 50-50 match rate, as the formula would dictate, a 59.8-40.2 percent match rate was established.

Unfortunately, this legislation was a short term fix. It only allowed the formula change to remain in effect for three years. As a result, unless we change the law, the formula will revert to the same inequitable standard that was used previously. And unless we extend the formula change, vital health care services to Alaska's neediest patients will be compromised.

For this reason, I am introducing legislation that will extend the federal government's commitment to the health and well-being of Alaska's Medicaid beneficiaries. The "Alaska Medicaid Equity Act of 2000," which is co-sponsored by Senator STEVENS, simply continues the spirit and intent of Congress by adjusting federal medical assistance percentage calculations to account for Alaska's unusually high delivery costs.

Three years after we first passed this legislation, the reasons and justifications for the adjustment still exist. The formula is still fundamentally unfair to Alaska.

Let me explain why. Alaska's per capita income is \$28,523, the 17th highest in the country. In fact, it's right near the national average, which is \$28,518. Although Alaska's per capita income suggests it is one of the richer states, it fails to take into account the high cost of living and the high cost of delivering health care.

Some studies show that it costs 71 percent more to deliver health care in Alaska. But let's look at some real numbers. From coast to coast, the U.S. dollar buys more goods and services than it does in Alaska.

In Portland, Oregon, it costs \$66.00 to feed a family of four for one week. In Anchorage it costs \$84.15. In Kodiak, that number jumps to \$105.88. And out in Dillingham, that number rises to \$144.57! We're comparing apples and oranges when we compare Alaska's per capita income to another state's average.

And how about electricity? In Portland, 1000 kilowatt hours costs \$60.88. Anchorage residents are paying \$92.83. Out in Bethel, Alaska, residents are paying \$202.68.

When focusing solely on the delivery of health care services, the differences stand out even more. In Florida, a hospital room for one day costs, on average, \$361. This is in line with lower 48 costs, which run between \$350 and \$450.